

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 4-32 and 34 are pending herein. Claim 1 has been amended as supported by Figs. 3 and 4 of the present application. Claims 12-15, 19-32 and 34 are presently withdrawn from consideration.

Examiner Leung is thanked for courtesies extended to Applicants' undersigned representative during a telephonic interview on July 30, 2008.* The substance of that interview has been incorporated into the following remarks. Examiner Leung indicated that an RCE would be necessary to enter the above amendments to claim 1.

1. The objection to the Amendment filed October 9, 2007 under 35 U.S.C. §132(a) is noted, but respectfully traversed.

Examiner Leung asserted that there is no support in the original application for new Fig. 28B or the corresponding description that was added to the specification by the Amendment filed October 9, 2007. More specifically, Examiner Leung argued that there is no support in the original application for the "out-of phase" feature shown in new Fig. 28B, because in each of the embodiments where undulated walls are combined with flat walls, "the undulated walls are always 'in-phase' with one another (i.e., where each recession faces an opposite protrusion)" (Office Action, page 2, last 4 lines).

Applicants disagree with this position, because while Fig. 3 shows undulated walls where each recession faces an opposite protrusion, Fig. 4 shows undulated walls where recessions and protrusions face opposite recessions and protrusions, respectively. Accordingly, one skilled in the art would easily understand that new Figs. 28A and 28B would result from the structures shown in Figs. 3 and 4, especially since Applicants have demonstrated in Figs. 1A and 1B how lateral and longitudinal cross sections of the cells are depicted.

* Attached hereto is an annotated copy of Figs. 3 and 4 of the present application that was provided to Examiner Leung for the telephonic interview on July 30, 2008.

In light of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request that Examiner Leung reconsider and withdraw the §132(a) objection.

2. Claims 1, 4-11 and 16-18 were rejected under §112, first and second paragraphs. Examiner Leung agreed during the telephonic interview that the above-outlined amendments to claim 1 would overcome all grounds of rejection under §112, first and second paragraphs.

3. Claims 1, 4 and 7-9 were rejected under §102(b) over Hamada; claim 5 was rejected under §103(a) over Hamada in view of Yutake and Maus; claims 6, 10 and 16 were rejected under §103(a) over Hamada; claims 11 and 17 were rejected under §103(a) over Hamada in view of Abe; and claim 18 was rejected under §103(a) over Hamada in view of Sugita. To the extent that any of these grounds of rejection might again be applied against the amended claims, they are respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to clarify that each of the cell passages has an adjacent pair of undulating wall face portions that include recessions and protrusions, and that, for each cell passage, the undulating wall face portions of the adjacent pair are positioned such that (i) corresponding protrusions of each of the adjacent undulating wall face portions face one another and corresponding recessions of each of the adjacent undulating wall face portions face one another, or (ii) corresponding protrusions of one of the adjacent undulating wall face portions face recessions of the other. Independent claim 1 has also been amended to clarify that, for each cell passage, an adjacent pair of flat wall face portions is located opposite the adjacent pair of undulating wall face portions.

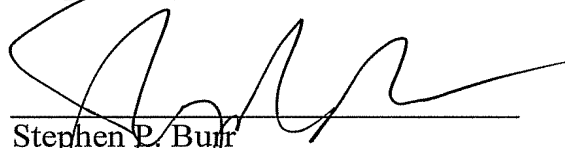
Applicants respectfully submit that no such structure is disclosed or suggested in any of the applied references. For example, each cell passage in Hamada does not meet the criteria now recited in independent claim 1. The other references fail to overcome the deficiencies of Hamada.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims herein define patentable subject matter over the applied references. Accordingly, Examiner Leung is requested to issue a Notice of Allowance for all pending claims as soon as possible.

Should Examiner Leung deem that any further action by the Applicants would be desirable in placing this application in even better condition for issue, she is requested to telephone Applicants' undersigned representative.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1446.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date

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FIG. 3

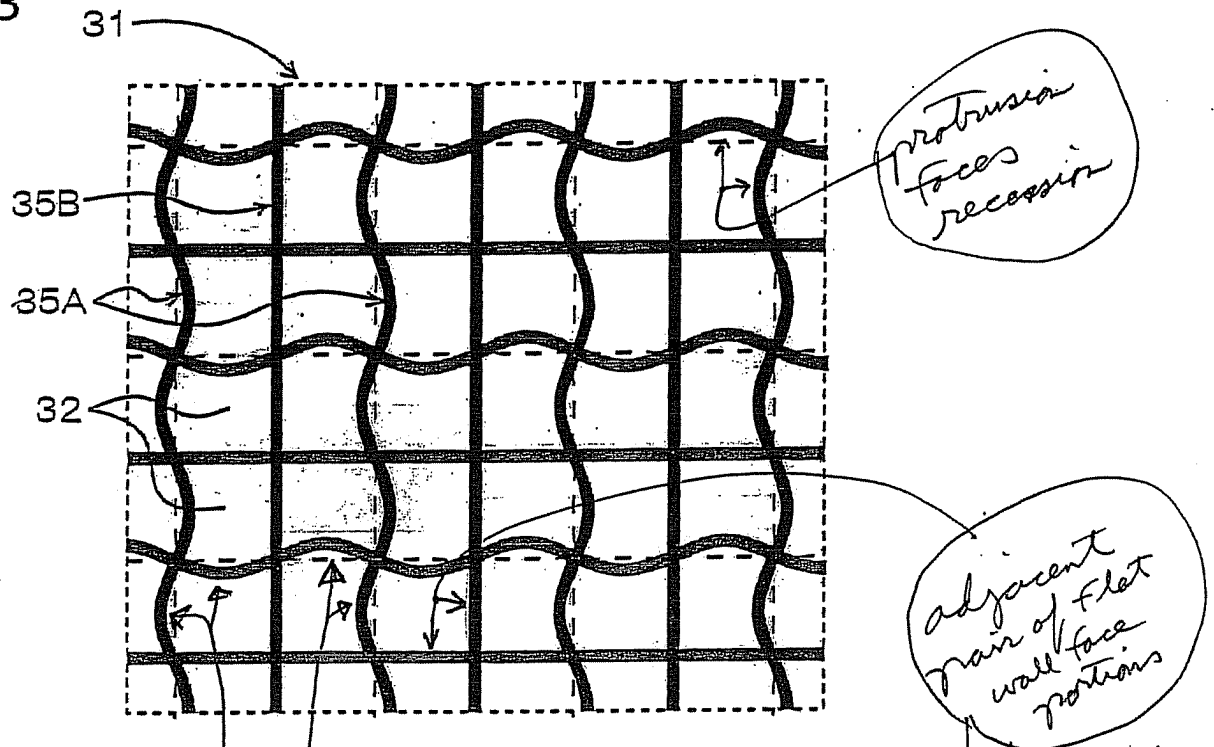


FIG. 4

